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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/814,788	04/01/2004	Jay Scott Angle	58501.00047	4950
32294	7590	07/05/2006		
SQUIRE, SANDERS & DEMPSEY L.L.P. 14TH FLOOR 8000 TOWERS CRESCENT TYSONS CORNER, VA 22182			EXAMINER LILLING, HERBERT J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1651	

DATE MAILED: 07/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/814,788

Applicant(s)

ANGLE ET AL.

Examiner

HERBERT J. LILLING

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-72 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-72 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

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1. Claims 1-72 are present in this instant application.

2. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

I. Claims 1-25 and 49-72, drawn to a method for extracting metal from non-sterile soil, classified in class 435, subclass 168.

II. Claims 26-48, drawn to a method of preparing soil for the growth of bacteria, classified in class 435, subclass 253.6.

4. Invention II does not require the specifics of Invention I. Because these inventions are independent or distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art in view of their different classification, the inventions require a different field of search (see MPEP § 808.02), and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper. The search and examination of the multiple inventions would involve extended prosecution as well as the additional search and examination would be extreme burdensome, thus the restriction is proper according to the MPEP.

5. This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species:

A. Whereby the metal extracted is selected from the group consisting of:

a. nickel;

b. copper;

c. zinc;

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- d. potassium;
- e. manganese;
- f. phosphorus;
- g. magnesium;
- h. calcium;
- i. mixtures-please specify the specific metals.

B. Whereby the enhancing-bacteria comprises

- x. rhizobacteria:
 - xa. *Microbacteria arabinogalactanolyticum*;
 - xb. *Microbacteria liquefaciens*;
 - xc. other-please specify;
- y. Other than rhizobacteria-please specify.

C. Whereby planting a metal-extracting plant in the soil is selected from:

- 1. genus *Alyssum*
 - 1a. *alyssum murale*;
 - 1b. other-please specify
- 2. whereby the planting consists of:
 - 2a. plant per se;
 - 2b. seed(s).

ba. Seeds are sterilized prior to addition of enhancing bacteria.

bb. Seeds are not sterilized.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, Claims 1, and 26 are generic.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which depend from or otherwise require all the limitations of an allowable generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

6. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include:

(i) an election of a species [one species from A; one species from B which includes xa, xb, or xc if x species is selected and one species from C which includes one species from [1. (1a. or 1b.0); 2. (2a. or 2b. (ba. or bb).] and invention [I or II] to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143)

and

(ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions or species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the inventions or species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C.103 (a) of the other invention.

Applicant is kindly requested to contact this Examiner if Applicant requires any assistance in the election of the inventions or species.

7. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

8. Applicant is required to cancel page 16 and to submit a Drawing. The drawings are objected to because the specification does not contain Drawings. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

In addition, Applicant is required to insert in the specification "A Brief Description of the Drawing" in the specification.

9. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

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10. It is noted that at least the bacteria, *Microbacteria arabinogalactanolyticum*, is not known or described in any of the computer base banks. The specification indicates that a deposit has been submitted which deposit may be required as a possible rejection of the application. Applicant may be required to be in full compliance with USPTO Rules of Deposit as follows:

It is apparent that the strain(s) is (are) required to practice the claimed invention(s) as recited in the claims. As a required element it must be known and readily available to the public or obtainable by a repeatable method set forth in the specification. If it is not so obtainable or available, the enablement requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, may be satisfied by a deposit of the strain(s). See 37 C. F. R. 1.802.

The specification does not provide a repeatable method for obtaining the strains(s) and it does not appear to be a readily available material. Deposit of strain(s) would satisfy the enablement requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112. If a deposit has been made, Applicant is required to meet the necessary criteria of the deposit rules in accordance with 37 CFR 1.801-37 CFR 1.809.

If a deposit has not been supplied or made under the Budapest Treaty, then an affidavit or declaration by Applicants or someone associated with the patent owner who is in a position to make such assurances, or a statement by an attorney of record over his or her signature, stating that the deposit has been made under the terms of the Budapest Treaty **and that all restrictions** imposed by the depositor on the availability to the public of the deposited material will be **irrevocably removed** upon the granting of a patent, would satisfy the deposit requirements, See 37 CFR 1.808.

If a deposit is not made under the terms of the Budapest Treaty, then an affidavit or declaration by Applicants or someone associated with the patent owner who is in a position to make such assurances, or a statement by an attorney of record over his or her signature, stating that the deposit has been made at an acceptable depository and that the following criteria have been met:

a) during the pendency of the application, access to the deposit will be afforded to one determined by the Commissioner to be entitled thereto;

b) **all restrictions imposed by the depositor on the availability to the public of the deposited material will be irrevocably removed upon the granting of a patent;**

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c) the deposit will be maintained for a term of at least thirty (30) years and at least five (5) years after the most recent request for the furnishing of a sample of the deposited material;

d) a viability statement in accordance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.807;

and

e) the deposit will be replaced should it become necessary due to inviability, contamination or loss of capability to function in the manner described in the specification.

In addition, the identifying information set forth in 37 CFR 1.809(d) should be added to the specification, See 37 CFR 1.803-37 CFR 1.809 for additional explanations of these requirements.

A statement as follows may be required:

All restrictions imposed by the depositor on the availability to the public of the deposited material will be irrevocably removed upon the granting of a patent.

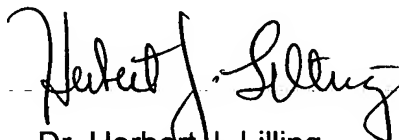
In addition, if Applicant presents claim(s) to the deposited species, the specification must contain a complete description of the morphology, chemical and physical properties of the deposited strain. According to the instant specification, there is only one deposited strain that has been deposited which inherent properties of this deposited strain can be inserted into the instant specification which enclosure would not be considered to be new matter. Any other insertion would be considered to be new matter drawn to any other strains. Any claimed products would be restricted from the above two inventions.

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11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Examiner Lilling whose telephone number is 571-272-0918** and **Fax Number** is (703) 872-9306 or SPE Michael Wityshyn whose telephone number is 571-272-0926. Examiner can be reached Monday-Thursday from about 5:30 A.M. to about 3:00 P.M. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://portal.uspto.gov/external/portal/pair>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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(571) 272-0918
Art Unit **1651**
June 25, 2006



Dr. Herbert J. Lilling
Primary Examiner
Group 1600 Art Unit 1651